

Appl. No. 10/650,053

Amdt. dated September 9, 2004

Reply to Office action of June 10, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). In a connecting terminal having a connecting structure with a device for contacting at least one conductor to be connected via the connecting terminal and with a conductor track connection for connecting the connecting terminal to a profiled protective conductor bar, the improvement which comprises: the conductor track connection being integrally formed in one piece with the connecting structure, and the conductor track connection including:

a base section and a resilient latching section configured to cooperate with a section of the conductor bar in arresting the connecting terminal on the conductor bar; and

a locking section configured to cooperate with said base section in locking the connecting terminal to a further section of the conductor bar.

Claims 2, 3 (canceled).

Appl. No. 10/650,053

Amdt. dated September 9, 2004

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Claim 4 (currently amended). The connecting terminal according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said locking section is a resilient structure.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein ~~said conductor track connection is formed with a resilient latching section and a locking section,~~ and at least one of said latching section and said locking section is formed by resilient fingers.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The connecting terminal according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said latching section has a latching projection for engaging behind a profiled region of the protective conductor bar.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The connecting terminal according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said locking section has a bearing projection for bearing against the protective conductor bar.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The connecting terminal according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said base section is formed with at least one contact projection for bearing against the protective conductor bar.

Appl. No. 10/650,053

Amdt. dated September 9, 2004

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Claim 9 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said connecting structure is formed from sheet metal.

Claim 10 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said connecting structure is a stamped flat sheet metal part.

Claim 11 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said connecting structure is substantially flat.

Claim 12 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said conductor track connection is configured to engage behind a protective conductor bar having, in cross section, a pot shape with a U-shaped central region and two edge region flanges projecting from said central region.

Claim 13 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, which further comprises at least one spring terminal element disposed on said connecting structure.

Claim 14 (original). The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said device for contacting the conductor

Appl. No. 10/650,053

Amdt. dated September 9, 2004

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includes at least one screw terminal element disposed on said
connecting structure.

Claim 15 (original). The connecting terminal according to
claim 1, wherein said connecting terminal is a terminal strip.